

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending and are the subject of an Election of Species Requirement. Figures 4 and 9 are corrected. Figure 9 is labeled as Related Art and in Figure 4, the relationship between the brake B1 and the sun gear S3 and the sleeve shaft 31 is corrected to conform to what is shown in the priority document, the subject matter of which was incorporated in the application by reference thereto.

As to the allegation that Figures 1 and 9 are described in the "Background" section of the disclosure, such is not the case. Nowhere in the Background is there a reference to Figure 1. The only reference is to a front engine, front drive system disclosed in a Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication and a front engine, rear drive type system as shown in Figure 9. The rest of the discussion focuses on Figure 9. Further, in the Brief Description of the Drawings, Figure 1 is described as a plan view showing a first embodiment of the invention. Thus, in keeping with Applicants' specification, Figure 9 has been labeled Related Art and Figure 1 has not been so labeled, as it is directed to the first embodiment of the invention. In fact, the Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment starts out with a discussion of Figure 1.

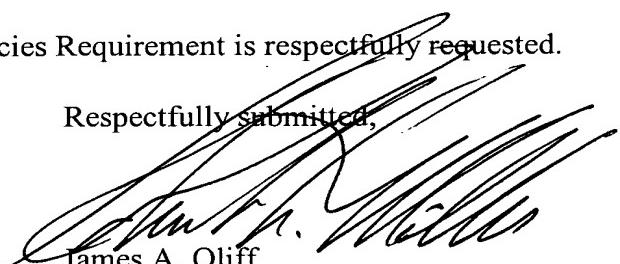
In Response to the Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the Third Species, Figures 3 and 7. Applicants submit that claims 1-19 are directed to the elected species and that claims 1-6 and 16-19 are generic to all species. Further, besides the generic species, claim 7 relates to the species of Figures 1 and 4. The generic claims relate to the species of Figure 2. This election is made with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden.

See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachments:

Figures 4 and 9

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets makes changes to Figs. 4 and 9 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 4 and 9.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)